

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are all of the pending claims, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. By this Amendment, claim 21 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5-7, 22-25 and 27 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102:

Claims 1, 3, 10, 18, 19 and 34 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by US 5102359 to Hinds. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hinds fail to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, independent claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 21. Therefore, as it is admitted in the Office Action fails to disclose the subject matter of allowable claim 21, Hinds fails to anticipate the rejected claims as amended.

Hinds relates to a small outboard fishing vessel electric trolling motor having a thrust director and a stand. The electric trolling motor includes a steering arm 11 and a top housing 12 connected to an electric motor housing 15. A mounting bracket 14 permits a user to mount the electric trolling motor on a boat and to rotate the motor about an axis. A screw clamp 18 holds the motor to a boat and a clamp 19 permits the user to adjust the vertical distance the motor and a propeller extend into the water (col. 2, lines 39-50; Fig. 1).

However, in the trolling motor of Hinds, the equipment segments are not designed to be installable at different locations in the vessel hull. Rather, because each of the elements of the trolling motor are required to be interconnected to function as required in Hinds, separation of the elements into different locations of the vessel hull would render the trolling motor useless. Moreover, Hinds is silent as to the equipment system vessel have AC and DC network elements for connection of the individual power generation and load units. Although Hinds shows no such individual power generation or load units, the electric trolling motor would likely require a battery (a DC power supply). Accordingly, Hinds fails to anticipate each and every element cited in the rejected claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections:

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 11-17 and 21-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of

the base claim and any intervening claims. As the subject matter of allowable claim 21 is incorporated into independent claim 1, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections -35 USC §112:

Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly failing to recite proper antecedent basis for certain claim elements. As the claims are amended in response to the rejection, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.


Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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